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DRAFTED BY EB:RHORMATS; P:DTICE APPROVED BY P - MR NEWSOM HA/HR:MSCHNEIDER D:SOXMAN

ARA: FMCNEIL

P 051606Z JUN 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA: IFI AND EXIM CREDITS

- 1. WE ARE CONSIDERING WHAT SHOULD BE APPROPRIATE USG ACTIONS IN LIGHT OF HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA, AND WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE STATUS OF SUCH CONSIDERATIONS IN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.
- 2. IN PARTICULAR, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW HOW THE FRENCH INTEND TO REACT, IF AT ALL, SHOULD HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS CONTINUE, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. WE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER THEY HAVE ANY INTEREST IN LIMITS ON, OR TEMPORARY CESSATION OF GOVERNMENT-FINANCED EXPORT CREDITS.

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3. FYI: USG IS CURRENTLY EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITY OF DENYING EX-IM FINANCING FOR ARGENTINA, BUT BECAUSE THIS WOULD OBVIOUSLY NOT BE VERY EFFECTIVE WITHOUT A SIMILAR EFFORT BY OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL, WE WOULD LIKE TO

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ASSESS PLANS OF OTHERS BEFORE MAKING A DECISION. INSO-FAR AS INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ARE CON-CERNED, WE ENVISAGE OPPOSITION TO FORTHCOMING LOANS

FOR ARGENTINA AS PART OF OUR OVERALL POLICY OF USING OUR VOICE AND OUR VOTE IN THE IFI'S TO SUPPORT IMPROVE-MENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS' PERFORMANCE IN OTHER COUNTRIES. END FYI.

4. YOU SHOULD EXPLORE, AT THE HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE, FRENCH ATTITUDES ON THESE ISSUES. IN DOING SO YOU CAN INFORM THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT THAT THE U.S. HAS MADE REPEATED DEMARCHES TO THE GOA CONCERNING THE GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUA-TION, WITH THE MATTER HAVING BEEN RAISED BY THE PRESI-DENT, THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STATE AND DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVES. MOST RECENTLY UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS DAVID D. NEWSOM VISITED ARGENTINA TO DISCUSS OUR CONCERNS WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE RULING GROUP.

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